SCS ADAMS, Paula
KATSARIS, Maria

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
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TO : File

DATE: September 19, 1977

FROM : CONS/RAMcCoy

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S TEMPLE PROBLEMS

Ms. Paula Adams, accompanied by another member of the People's Temple, came to see me this afternoon to play a tape that they had made of the conversation between Paula Adams and a member of their organization called Maria Katasaris. On the tape Ms. Katasaris stated that her father was coming to Georgetown to see her, but that she did not wish to see him because of a number of traumatic experiences she had suffered while she was living with him. Ms. Katasaris claimed to be 24 years old and was living in Jonestown of her own free will and she intimated in the telephone conversation that her father had sexually assaulted her and committed other acts against her which lead her to leave him and never wish to see him again. She stated categorically that she had no intentions of leaving Jonestown and did not wish to be bothered by her father or have any type of personal contact with him. In addition to the conversation I had received a telegram from Ms. Katasaris stating, in essence, the same thing.

I informed Ms. Adams that the father had not been in communication with the Embassy and that I would pass on Ms. Katasaris' message to him if he does come to Georgetown. I suggested, though, that it would be more effective if Ms. Katasaris, at some time soon, could come to Georgetown on Peoples Temple business and drop in and see me and state so in person. Ms. Adams thought that this was unlikely and said that she personally was upset by all these requests coming in about whether people were being held against their will by the organization. I told her that I could understand the feeling but that, as I pointed out to her in an earlier conversation, she should not consider this unusual in view of the allegations made in the United States press and the fact that the organization had just recently brought such large numbers of people to settle in Guyana. I continued that I thought that by a Consular Officer having personal contact with these individuals and being able to report that they did wish to remain in the agricultural community, this should dissipate the fears of the families of those concerned as well as allay any other fears that people are being mistreated and held against their will by the People's Temple. Ms. Adams agreed and said that the organization could not understand why there was all this sudden harrassment taking place in the United States and now in Guyana.

I countered that from what I could see most of the problems appeared to be caused by former members of the organization. I felt that she should understand that relatives would be reading this in the press

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and becoming naturally concerned about their relatives' well being. Ms. Adams should also clearly understand that the Embassy did not intend to take sides in any disputes involving her organization unless there was absolute evidence to support such an allegation, but that should the Department of State order us to have personal contact with that individual then we had no choice but to do so. I assured her that I nor the Embassy were concerned about these allegati unless they could be proven to us and we only acted upon official inquiries by the U. S. Government. I indicated to her that while I enjoyed going up to the Northwest District, I had a lot of other things that I needed to do and that it was difficult for me to have to take the time to leave Georgetown and I again reiterated toher that I was as much their Consul as anybody else's.